

Call Number: 02-00-48A

A Conference on the Future of Alaska – Various

Summary created by: Jacob Metoxen

Date of creation of summary: 3/13/2013, 4/13/13

Notes:

A man is asking the editors to make a note of the subjects being discussed so that the group will have a record of it. A Mr. Stewart makes a remark stating he noticed a great similarity of aims in all of the reports from groups. Mr. Rasmuson says he finds an error of omission in the third paragraph of page 2, the statement of Beta Group. A woman named Bessy begins speaking and says that it has been called to her attention that one area was left out of the report which was discussed at the end of the meeting. She says the group spent a long time discussing the importance of long range planning. Steve Willis makes a statement. Willis says the idea used by the Beta Group was a good one. The idea was an appendix with all of the various individual subjects touch on but not necessarily decided on. He asks if possibly reporters from the other groups share their appendix materials. There is a suggestion of operating for the next session by the main speaker [John Osman]. A man intervenes and steps up and says he would like to address something the man had said earlier. The man in the crowd name Mr. Diliceo [Spelling] says that the main speaker said "He wished he could get off this and return to real policy" when discussing the environmental concern. John Osman denies ever saying this. He says if he said it that was he is sorry. To clear things up, John Osman says he meant that the groups should postpone an emphasis on environmental policy. Osman has listened to the report like Mr. Diliceo and Mr. Stewart; he sensed that Mr. Stewart and himself were out on the town. Osman says that is why Mr. Stewart smiles when he looks at Osman. The crowd erupts in laughter at 4:00. He says as he listens to the reports he suggests that they all take the reports with them during the next couple of weeks in order to prepare for the next session. Another way is to have each attendee think of themselves as a legislator or editor and see what they could do about taking the four reports identifying the major issues that are brought up in each one and then reading the reports, begin to write policy positions dealing with the issues. Osman says there are dozens of policy issues involved and all of them don't have to be dealt with. He says the main task is to take the raw materials that have all been processed through discussion and identify the major issues. There are two ingredients in policy that are extremely important: goals and ethics. Brookings Institute sent out to about 300 Alaskans questionnaires. The questionnaires were aimed towards asking Alaskans what they thought were the most important events in the past 10 years and the impact of the events on Alaska. The questionnaire was also set up to ask what they think the next 10 years will include. By seminar three Osman says he hopes to give conference attendees the results of the questionnaire so they will have an idea of where the Alaskan community stands. 300 questionnaires were sent out and they have 88 responses, sometimes the questionnaires include up to 5 pages of letters. He says he was pleased that James Mitchell, who is the

director of the Advanced Study Program at Brookings, could be with the people. Osman turns the program to James Mitchell at 13:50.

James Mitchell steps to the microphone and says "Thank you, John." Mitchell says that he is speaking for the Brookings Advanced Study Program. He says the seminar has been held on an agreement with the bipartisan legislative council. He says he has four things to say now. First, he says similar conferences have been held in the lower 48 but never for an entire state. He says he thinks the conference can be a success if the attendees do what John Osman has asked them to do in the meantime. Second, he wants to thank the representative of the university and the policy planning teams. Third, he would like to amplify Osman's request about the preparation of the policy positions. He suggests that the attendees think in terms of several areas about which they feel deeply as leaders of the state. Fourth, he is told that each legislative session closes with remarks from a member of the alpha group of this conference. He thinks it's appropriate to close the seminar the same way. At 17:15 he calls upon Senator Jay Hammond.

Hammond says that he refuses to take all the blame of this. He says it is by request of an old friend Harold Hansen. He says he has entitled his poem "Observation Alpha." Arlen Tussing is discussed and is part of a poem read by Hammond. Doc Woods, Dan Cuddy, and Elmer [no last name] are mentioned. John Osman thanks Senator Hammond and Osman adjourns the crowd.